

REMARKS:

Initially, Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37-39 and 41 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 44-48 are hereby cancelled without disclaimer and without prejudice to later prosecution; the cancellation is not made in acquiesce to their rejection, but instead to facilitate early issuance of the other allowed claims.

A set for formal drawings are included herewith responsive to the objection to certain margins provided in the original set; acceptance is respectfully solicited.

Examiner indicated in the third full paragraph of page 3 of the Restriction Requirement dated 25 June 2003 that "[u]pon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141." Further, this is consonant with MPEP 806.04(d) where it is stated that "[o]nce a claim that is determined to be generic is allowed, all of the claims drawn to species in addition to the elected species which include all the limitations of the generic claim will ordinarily be obviously allowable in view of the allowance of the generic claim, since the additional species will depend thereon or otherwise include all of the limitations thereof."

In this regard, Applicants wish to clarify the character of their election made 27 October 2003 pursuant to Examiner's requirement - Examiner's assessment set forth in the instant Action is not wholly accurate. The Requirement was not traversed; Applicants elected species G for purposes of substantive examination. Applicants did, however, traverse Examiner's assessment that there were no generic claims.

Now in follow-up to Examiner's substantive examination and allowance of certain of the pending claims, Applicants respectfully assert that at least allowed claims 1, 6, and 31 are generic to the several species earlier designated by Examiner. As such, the following claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of these generic claims and had previously been

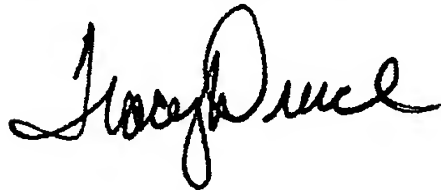
withdrawn as not reading on the elected species should be reconsidered and also allowed, and include claims: 5, 11, 13-19, 22, 25, 33, 36, 40, 42 and 43 - their status has been designated as "Previously Submitted" in the claim listing found hereinabove.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Order No. 02303.0005.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy W. Druce", written in a cursive style.

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